



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.2 percent for September 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up three-tenths of a percentage point from the August 2001 rate of 3.9 percent, and up an entire percentage point from the September 2000 rate of 3.2 percent. The slowing economy and the increased number of layoffs in the area account for the increase in September's unemployment rate. The number of individuals employed increased from August to September by 1,100 individuals, while an increase occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 9,700 in August to 10,600 in September. There was a net increase in the

Treasure Valley Table 2: September 2001 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,567	6,856	3.7	176,711
Adams	1,758	189	10.8	1,569
Boise	2,364	122	5.2	2,242
Canyon	70,308	3,728	5.3	66,580
Elmore	9,690	681	7.0	9,010
Gem	7,088	693	9.8	6,396
Owyhee	4,558	197	4.3	4,361
Payette	10,529	1,175	11.2	9,353
Valley	4,280	320	7.5	3,959
Washington	4,661	452	9.7	4,209
Statewide	687,687	33,571	4.9	654,116

Civilian Labor Force of 2,000 individuals from August to September 2001, and an increase of 14,400 individuals from one year ago. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the September 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 500 from August to September 2001, and increased by 5,600 jobs since September 2000. Job decreases in *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing (100)*, *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon counties

	Sept 2001*	August 2001	Sept 2000	% Change Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	253,900	251,900	239,500	0.8	6.0
Unemployment	10,600	9,700	7,700	9.3	37.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	3.9	3.2		
Total Employment	243,300	242,200	231,800	0.5	5.0
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	251,700	253,900	237,800	-0.9	5.8
Unemployment	9,500	9,000	7,000	5.6	35.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	2.9		
Total Employment	242,200	244,900	230,800	-1.1	4.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>	232,300	231,800	226,700	0.2	2.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	54,700	55,200	53,800	-0.9	1.7
<b>Mining &amp; Construction</b>	18,200	18,200	16,600	0.0	9.6
<b>Manufacturing</b>	36,500	37,000	37,200	-1.4	-1.9
Durable Goods	28,100	28,600	28,600	-1.7	-1.7
Lumber & Wood Products	3,300	3,300	3,300	0.0	0.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	1,000	0.0	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,300	0.0	8.7
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,200	1,300	-8.3	-15.4
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,600	7,000	8,100	-5.7	-18.5
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,400	13,400	12,200	0.0	9.8
Transportation Equipment	1,800	1,900	1,700	-5.3	5.9
Other Durable Goods	1,900	1,800	2,000	5.6	-5.0
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,400	8,600	0.0	-2.3
Food Products	5,600	5,600	5,700	0.0	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	177,600	176,600	172,900	0.6	2.7
<b>Trans, Comm, &amp; Public Util</b>	12,300	12,100	12,200	1.7	0.8
Transportation	6,900	6,700	6,700	3.0	3.0
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
<b>Trade</b>	57,400	58,100	56,700	-1.2	1.2
Wholesale Trade	13,500	13,800	13,700	-2.2	-1.5
Durable Goods	8,200	8,300	8,200	-1.2	0.0
Nondurable Goods	5,300	5,500	5,500	-3.6	-3.6
Retail Trade	43,900	44,300	43,000	-0.9	2.1
General Merchandise Stores	6,300	6,200	5,400	1.6	16.7
Foods Stores	7,200	7,500	8,000	-4.0	-10.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,100	0.0	4.0
Other Retail Trade	14,700	14,900	14,500	-1.3	1.4
<b>Finance, Insurance, &amp; Real Estate</b>	11,100	11,100	11,100	0.0	0.0
<b>Services</b>	62,200	62,300	59,600	-0.2	4.4
Business Services	15,000	15,200	15,500	-1.3	-3.2
Health Services	18,700	18,600	16,900	0.5	10.7
Hospitals	8,900	8,900	7,700	0.0	15.6
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,700	4,800	4,500	-2.1	4.4
Other Services	23,800	23,700	22,700	0.4	4.8
<b>Government</b>	34,600	33,000	33,300	4.8	3.9
Federal Government	5,300	5,300	5,100	0.0	3.9
State Government	13,100	12,300	12,600	6.5	4.0
Education	4,500	3,600	4,300	25.0	4.7
Administration	8,600	8,700	8,300	-1.1	3.6
Local Government	16,200	15,400	15,600	5.2	3.8
Education	10,400	9,400	9,900	10.6	5.1
Administration	5,800	6,000	5,700	-3.3	1.8

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

(400) and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) outpaced job gains in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100) to create a net decrease of 500 jobs month-over-month in *Goods-Producing Industries*. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 900 jobs with *Construction & Mining* (1,600), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (200), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,200), and *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* (100) outpacing job losses in *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* (200), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (200), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,500), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products* (100), and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products* (100). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in that industry since January 2001.

*Service-Producing Industries* gained 1,000 jobs between August and September 2001. Job increases in *Transportation* (200), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Health Services* (100), *Other Services* (100), *State Government Education* (900), and *Local Government Education* (1,000) outpaced job losses in *Durable Goods Trade* (100), *Nondurable Goods Trade* (200), *Food Stores* (300), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Business Services* (200), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (200) to create the net increase in the number of jobs in the Boise City MSA over the month. The majority of job increases occurred in *State and Local Government Education*, with schools starting back up in September. The number of jobs in *State and Local Government Administration* decreased in September because of the end of temporary summer work in several departments. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 4,700 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services*, *Nondurable Goods Trade*, *Food Stores*, and *Business Services*, the only industries to experience job losses. The most notable job gains over the year were seen in *General Merchandise Stores* (900), *Eating and Drinking Places* (600), *Health Services* (1,800) primarily *Hospitals* (1,200), and *Other Services* (1,100).

## SPECIAL TOPICS

### Metro Expo 2001

- The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce held its annual Metro Expo in mid-October. The expo included 160 company exhibits and free professional development seminars. The Intermountain Venture Capital Forum was set for the last day of the Expo. Fourteen companies spent the day pitching ideas to individual investors and nearly a dozen venture capital firms.

## Electronics Update

- Micron Technology, Inc., announced a cost-cutting campaign in mid-October that could result in layoffs. The company announced that there are no current plans to lay off workers, but that future layoffs were possible if the industry does not recover from its current slump. The company imposed another ten percent cut in executive salaries as part of the company's cost-cutting campaign, and reduced non-essential travel for employees. The Christmas holiday will be extended for employees who elect to use accrued vacation, take unpaid time off, or tap future vacation time. In addition to the cost-cutting measures that Micron is taking, Micron Chairman and CEO Steve Appleton announced that he would not receive any salary while Micron posts financial losses.
- Micron Technology jumped to number one as the top DRAM producer in the world. Analysts predict that the increase in market share will allow the company to take in huge profits when the market rebounds. Samsung was the top DRAM producer, but updated information shows that Micron had higher sales than any other competitor since 1998.
- MicronPC, now part of the Gores Technology Group, posted its first profit in two years. Even though computer sales remain down, MicronPC was able to turn a profit by trimming its workforce and streamlining expenses.
- MCMS laid off another 56 workers in late October. Declining business and the loss of its biggest client, Cisco, contributed to the layoff. No information was available about the type of jobs that were lost at the company. MCMS still has 590 employees. In early October, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court approved a \$49 million "debtor-in-possession" financing package that allows MCMS to continue day-to-day operations during the bankruptcy proceedings. The bankruptcy court also approved the bidding procedures for the sale of MCMS assets. MCMS already announced its intended sale to Manufacturers' Services Limited, a Massachusetts firm that intends to keep the Nampa plant open and retain most of its employees.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Boise Cascade Corporation announced the re-branding of its name in early October. The company will retain its full name for legal activities, including financial trading, but will adopt "Boise" for its products and marketing materials. The company stated that the change will have a visual presentation that does a better job of telling what the company is and

what it does. The company is very diversified, and the office products and building materials distribution divisions account for more than half of the company's total sales. The name changeover will not be completed until the spring of 2002. The company also announced the construction of a \$65 million wood-plastic composite manufacturing plant in Elma, Washington. The construction of the plant started in April 2001, and will be completed by May 2002.

- Sears recently announced the elimination of 4,900 salaried jobs throughout the company, along with other cost-cutting measures, and announced a new merchandising strategy. The strategy, under the direction of new chief executive, Alan Lacy, is designed to regain ground lost to certain discount stores that have opened in recent years. The company did not say whether the job cuts would affect employees at any Treasure Valley locations. The company also recently completed a \$6 million remodeling project at its Boise Towne Square location that increased the retail space by 10,000-square feet, allowing for the addition of a new bedding department, a larger women's section, hearing aid sales, and the expanded hardware department: "Tool Territory." The remodel also allowed the store to increase its sales force by ten percent.
- Moxie Java has new owners, Rick and Stephanie Dean of Grangeville, who purchased the business from Jerome Eberharter. Both the Deans and Eberharter will work together to market and promote Moxie Java and White Cloud Coffee throughout the country. The Deans have said that the added exposure of Moxie Java could allow the company to open up as many as 300 stores across the country within the next few years.
- A new retail shopping center is opening in November near the Boise Towne Square Mall. The new center is located next to TGI Friday's near Emerald and Milwaukee, and has been developed as a "lifestyle center," which is a new concept that is designed to offer shoppers mall-type stores without getting in and out of the mall. The tenants in the shopping center will be David's Bridal, Mountain States Cellular, and Aaron Brothers Art Mart (scheduled to open in February). There also will be four additional tenants in the future.
- The Boise Factory Outlet Mall was sold in August to Canterbury Real Estate Services, Inc., a Portland-based real estate firm, for \$7.6 million. The purchase did not include Idaho Ice World, but it did include six acres of undeveloped land west of the outlet mall. The company stated that it is negotiating with developers of a hotel that may take 2.5 acres of the

available land; if the deal goes through, construction on the hotel could begin in spring 2002. Three more pad sites on the six acres are under negotiations for a possible bank and national fast-food company. Improvements at the outlet mall are scheduled for the future, and may include a food court and daycare center. Opening in October at the outlet mall were catalog retailer Harry & David and Eddie Bauer.

- Construction started on the Orthopedic Center of Idaho in August. The 9,000-square-foot medical facility is located at River and 14th Streets in Boise and will include two operating rooms, one procedure room, and a six-bed recovery area. The building is being developed by several Boise-area orthopedists. The project should be completed by February 2002.
- Recent business openings in Boise include American Geotechnics, Inc., at 5260 Chinden Boulevard. The company specializes in providing geotechnical engineering, environmental services, and materials testing. American Auto Wholesale and Starr Tooling, which sells used automobiles and custom manufactures small machine parts, moved from Canyon County and leased 1,600 square feet at 5579 Overland Road in Boise. Tait & Associates are opening an architecture, engineering, environmental, and construction services office at 404 South Eighth Street, Suite 310. Syringa Networks, a statewide telecommunications network firm, has leased 6,286-square feet of space in the Airport Business Center at 3795 South Development Way in Boise. The Diamond Development Center opened a training center at 1350 Vista Avenue in Boise. Ashton's Framing and Fine Art opened at the corner of Eagle Road and Chinden Boulevard next to the City Market Place. MelloDee's Child Center, operated by the Community House, opened recently in downtown Boise at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Grand Avenue. Peterson Autoplex recently purchased the Chrysler franchise from Lithia Chrysler Plymouth of Boise as well as expanded its location at 9101 West Fairview Avenue in Boise. Rachel's Place, a retail store that carries all hand-made gifts and home décor items, recently opened in Meridian at 1233 East First Street. Eagle Vacuum and Home Décor opened at 360 East State Street in Eagle. The Eagle Historical Museum opened in mid-October at the old library building in Eagle. The Eagle United Methodist Church finished its renovation and expansion project on North Eagle Road.
- AutoZone, a national auto parts chain, recently announced plans to build an outlet in Caldwell. The company acquired all required permits in October, and is preparing to build a 7,300-square-foot building at the corner of Tenth Avenue and Belmont Street. A construction start date has not been set.

- Recent business openings and announcements in Canyon County include BC&T Prints, which opened its retail laser print store in Karcher Mall in October; Horizon Paint, which manufactures paint and coatings, opened its new store at 423 East Karcher Road in Nampa; Washington Trust Bank opened a new branch at 2200 North Cassia Street in Nampa; Walgreens announced plans to open a store in Caldwell; and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints opened its newest chapel in mid-October at Locust Lane, one mile west of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Nampa.

#### **Adams County**

- The Council City Council has planned the construction of two new buildings at the business park, funded by a Rural Community Development Block Grant. The foundation work is expected to be completed this fall, with construction on the buildings starting in the spring.
- Wilson's West, a new dance club in Council, had its grand opening in early October. The dance hall is located in the center of Council's financial district and is accessed through a doorway in the west wall of Wilson's Lounge. The opening night featured a live band: Sparky Parks and the Aardvarks.

#### **Elmore County**

- The U.S. Air Force released an announcement in mid-October outlining its plans for a realignment of Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), which will result in a pure fighter wing. Within the next year and a half, the B-1s and the KC-135Rs will be reassigned to other bases. The Air Force will increase the number of maintenance personnel, and expand the current Control and Reporting Element to a Control and Reporting Center, which will create a shifting of personnel, but no reduction in the number of those stationed at MHAFB. Between 500 and 700 persons could be affected by the changes. The U.S. Air Force also announced that MHAFB has been identified as a likely location for F-22 Raptor fighters in the future. In related MHAFB news, several additional units have been deployed from the base in the past few weeks, but no information on the destination was released.

#### **Payette County**

- Woodgrain Millwork, Inc., based out of Fruitland, recently has announced the opening of a new plant in Los Angeles, Chile. The South American plant is expected to open in late 2002 and provide at least 300 jobs.

#### **Valley County**

- The Cascade Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner auction in early October at the American Legion Hall in Cascade. More than 150 people attended the annual event and raised more than \$10,000 for community projects and scholarships. During the annual dinner auction, the Chamber kicked off its "Extreme Cascade" national and regional marketing campaign. The campaign, funded by an Idaho Travel Council grant in conjunction with the Cascade Chamber of Commerce, targets winter sports enthusiasts and recreational vehicle buffs. Half-page "Extreme Cascade, Adventure Gateway" ads will be featured in the November, January, and February issues of SnoWest Magazine. The Cascade Chamber website will provide a link to [www.sledtherockies.org](http://www.sledtherockies.org), which promotes the area, and the chamber will host a booth at related trade shows. The McCall and Cascade chambers have partnered in this venture in an effort to maximize their exposure by coordinating promotional and advertising efforts in promoting the entire Valley County area.
- In early October, the McCall Planning and Zoning Commission recommended the approval of a 130-foot cell phone tower to be built on Industrial loop in west McCall. The tower will be owned by Clear-shot Communications, and will be designed to hold four wireless communication antennas. It will be painted and fitted with safety lighting according to FAA guidelines.
- Three consultants recently have been appointed to leadership positions with the proposed WestRock resort on Lake Cascade. David Scott was appointed vice president of commercial operations of WestRock Associates, Dan Newman was appointed vice president of financial planning, and Hilary Smith was named natural resource specialist of the resort. Earlier this year, Valley County officials approved the WestRock master plan but the resort is still seeking a lease from the State Land Board on 2,100 acres of state land. The Idaho State Land Board discussed the proposed resort in a closed session in mid-October and did not set a date for future discussions of the proposed resort.

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